

# Special Addition to THE INDEX

VOL 05-03/a

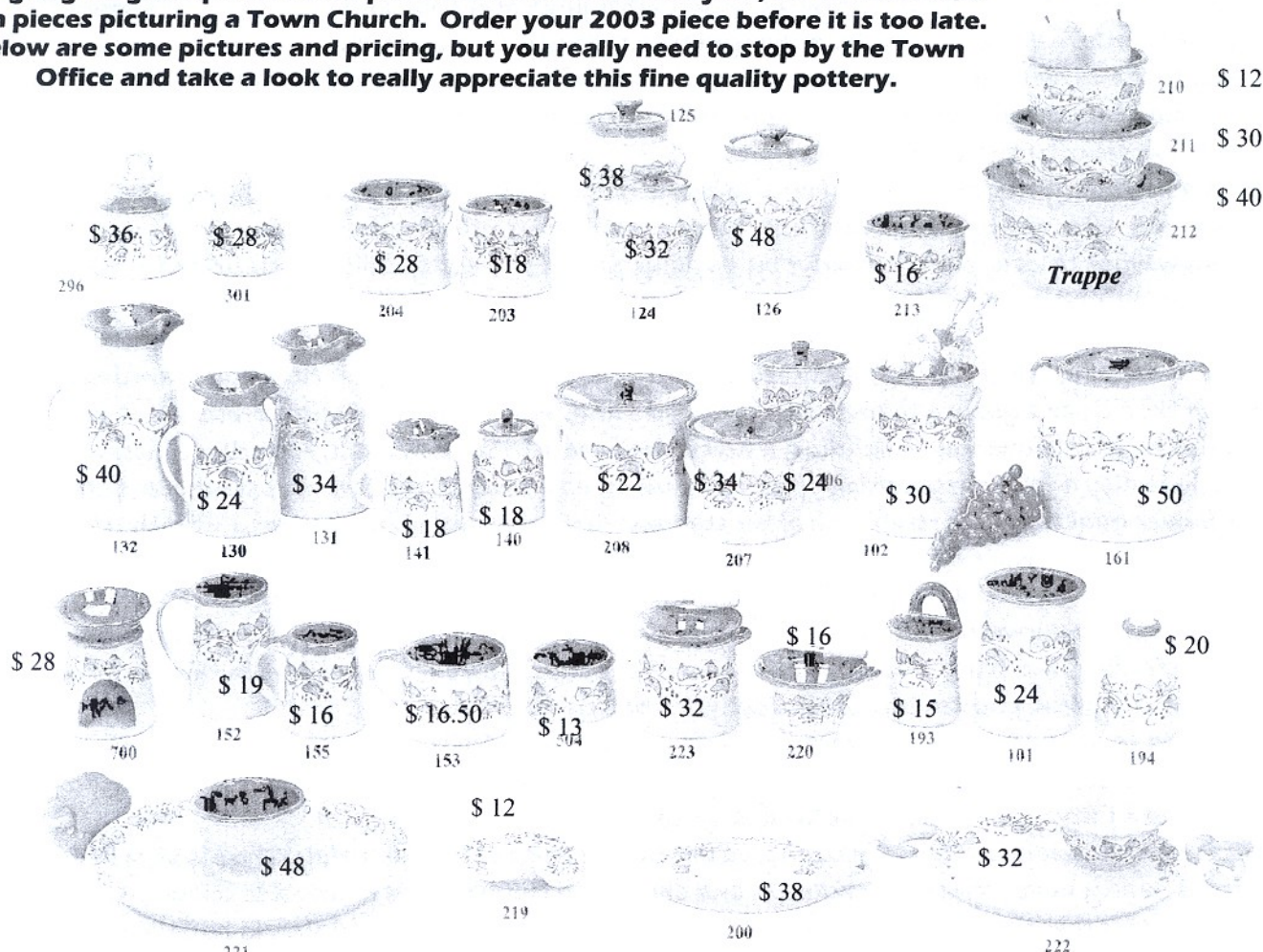
OCTOBER, 2003

*There was so much going on this month and so many things to pass along, that we are including this addition to our monthly newsletter.....*

## Trappe Pottery is Here !!

Please stop by the Town Office and check it out. Perfect for collecting and holiday gift giving. A special dated piece will be offered each year, we have started with pieces picturing a Town Church. Order your 2003 piece before it is too late. Below are some pictures and pricing, but you really need to stop by the Town Office and take a look to really appreciate this fine quality pottery.

*Each piece has 'Trappe' painted on it.*



### White Marsh Elementary PTO News

Little Rascals Consignment Shop has set up a White Marsh PTO account and will be accepting two bags per family of gently used clothes, housewares, books and toys. Clean out your closets and cupboards and help fund an event, field trip or assembly for WMES!! Contact Amber McKewan for more information: 410-822-3275

### GIRLSCOUT LEADERS BEING RECRUITED NOW

Adult leaders and co-leaders are needed for Daisy and Junior Girl Scouts in the Trappe community. We need your help! We have girls waiting to join! Please contact Jean Sard at 410.476.3301 or bnutt@fastol.com

### THIS MONTH'S WEB SITE PICKS

Keep up to date on happenings in your children's schools at the Talbot County Public Schools Web site: <http://www.tcps.k12.md.us>

Join Parent Connect to follow your child's success...  
[www.parentconnect.tcps.k12.md.us](http://www.parentconnect.tcps.k12.md.us)



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The letter below is from a young man serving our Country in Iraq. It ran in the Star Democrat in September, but is worth reprinting to give everybody a chance to hear how one of our own is doing so far from home.

## A Trappe Soldier Writes from the Front Lines in Iraq

By: SPEC. STEPHEN GRAFTON (Reprinted from The Sunday Star 09/20/2003)

KIRKUK, IRAQ - I have been serving in Iraq for over five months now as a soldier in the 2d Battalion of the 503d Airborne Infantry Regiment, otherwise known as the "ROCK". We entered the country at midnight on the 26th of March, 1,000 of my fellow soldiers and I parachuted from 10 jumbo jets (known as C17s) onto a cold, muddy field in Bashur, Northern Iraq.

This parachute operation was the U.S. Army's only combat jump of the war and opened up the northern front. Things have changed tremendously for our battalion since those first cold, wet weeks spent in the mountain city of Bashur. On April 10th our battalion conducted an attack south into the oil-rich town of Kirkuk, the city that has since become our home away from home and the focus of our security and development efforts.

Kirkuk is a hot, dusty city of just over a million people. The majority of the city has welcomed our presence with open arms. After nearly five months here, the people still come running from their homes, into the 110-degree heat, waving to us as our troops drive by on daily patrols of the city. Children smile and run up to shake hands and in their broken English shout, "Thank you Mister."

Kirkuk's people are all trying to find their way in this new democratic environment. Some major steps have been made in these last three months. A big reason for our steady progress is that our soldiers are living among the people of the city and getting to know their neighbors and the needs of their neighborhoods.

We have also been instrumental in building a new police force. Kirkuk now has 1,700 police officers. The police are now, ethnically, a fair representation of the community as a whole. So far, we have spent over \$500,000 from the former Iraqi regime to repair each of the stations' electricity and plumbing, to paint each station and to make it a functional place for the police to work.

The battalion also has assisted in re-establishing Kirkuk's fire department, which is now even more effective than before the war. New water treatment and sewage plants are being constructed and the distribution of oil and gas are steadily improving. All of these functions were started by our soldiers here in this northern city and are now slowly being turned over to the newly elected city government.

Laws are being rewritten to reflect democratic principles and a functioning judicial system was recently established to bridge the gap between law enforcement and the rule of law. The quality of life and security for the citizens has been largely restored and we are a large part of why that has happened.

The fruits of all our soldiers' efforts are clearly visible in the streets of Kirkuk today. There is very little trash in the streets, many more people in the markets and shops, and children have returned to school.

This is all evidence that the work we are doing as a battalion and as American soldiers is bettering the lives of Kirkuk's citizens.

I am proud of the work we are doing here in Iraq and I hope all of your readers are as well.

Specialist Stephen Grafton, of Trappe, Able, 2nd Battalion (ABN) Infantry, serves with the 173rd Airborne Brigade.

### LOCAL ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

#### SUPPORT LOCAL SCHOOLS WHILE PROMOTING YOUR BUSINESS

Did you know you can advertise in **White Marsh Elementary's** monthly school newsletter (also called *The Index*)? Rates are very reasonable (and tax deductible!). Sizes range from business card to a full page, and your ad will help the school publish the newsletter without draining school resources. Contact Lance Lankford at WMES for more information, 410.476.3144 or [llankford@tcps.k12.md.us](mailto:llankford@tcps.k12.md.us)

**Easton High School** is offering reasonably-priced advertising to run in the Band Boosters concert programs throughout the year, and the Yearbook. The Band Boosters also offer personal greetings at a nominal price. Contact Phyllis Marsh at 410.822.9010 or [phyllis@marshvideo.com](mailto:phyllis@marshvideo.com) for Band Boosters information or April Byrnes at 410.476.3910 or [tinman@friend.ly.net](mailto:tinman@friend.ly.net) for yearbook information.

*The Index* is a publication of the Trappe Town Council. We welcome contributions and short articles that are of general interest to the community. Events reported in *The Index* do not necessarily reflect the endorsement of the Town Commissioners. The Commissioners reserve the right to edit or reject any item submitted.

